FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1987

ICO Summit Conference

The conference will consider a draft resolution on the Iran-Iraq war 28 January, an official spokesman disclosed in a statement cited by KUNA, adding that the ICO hopes to implement its resolution on the war through messages or a committee. The spokesman downplayed the possibility of holding an Arab summit on the sidelines of the ICO conference, stating that "many complications" are preventing the move to hold an Arab summit. Nevertheless, the Arab League secretary general told INA that the Arab leaders in Kuwait will hold a summit 28 or 29 January.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was among those who addressed the 27 January session, telling the conferees that the Arab-Israeli dispute is the "main topic" to be discussed. In his address, broadcast by Damascus television, the Syrian leader warned that the "Zionist danger" is increasing and he claimed that Israel's UN membership is "legally invalid" because the Israelis failed to fulfill conditions of membership. Accusing the United States of blindly adopting Israeli policies and attitudes on the Mideast conflict and on terrorism, Al-Asad stressed the "very big difference" between terrorism and liberation struggles, and he deplored the West's lack of response to his call for an international committee to define terrorism.

In contrast to Al-Asad, Jordan's King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak focused on the dangers of the Iran-Iraq war in their speeches, broadcast by Amman and Cairo radios respectively. Husayn said the war is the "first problem" to be resolved and Mubarak urged the ICO to establish a team of experts to mobilize resources of Islamic countries "in a collective and coordinated manner to stand up to any aggression against any ICO member." He also called for a nonaggression pact among Islamic countries and said the ICO must appeal to warring Muslim states to end their fighting within a specified period. Mubarak said he would not respond to criticisms of Egypt in Al-Asad's speech out of concern for the conference. Mubarak and Al-Asad earlier shook hands and entered the conference hall hand in hand, MENA noted, though a Syrian spokesman cited by Damascus radio stressed that this was in accordance with protocol and had no political significance. Both Damascus and Cairo radios broadcast official denials of a KUNA report that Al-Asad held talks with Mubarak after the summit session. The KUNA report, which cited an Arab diplomatic source, also said that Al-Asad met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil 28 January.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi official cited by INA rejected Iran's offer to end the attacks on cities, stating that Iraq will only reconsider its decision to pound Iranian cities if an internationally-guaranteed agreement is reached. He said Iraqi air attacks on Iran will continue unless the latter stops attacking Iraqi territory and follows the "correct path." Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio subsequently announced new air raids on Iranian cities 27 and 28 January, noting that the targets included Qom, Tabriz, and Khomeyn, the birthplace of "charlatan Khomeyni." In retaliation, Iran "heavily pounded" Iraqi targets in Basra and other cities, IRNA reported.

At the battlefronts, a fresh Iranian attack late 27 January resulted in 1,500 Iraqi casualties, according to Tehran radio. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA maintained that the Iranian attack the previous night was repulsed, with Iran sustaining 5,000 casualties. A spokesman cited by the Iraqi agency also denied Iran's claim to have downed three Iraqi planes over the Karbala' 5 sector 27 January. An Iraqi communique reported a strike at a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 28 January, and Athens radio disclosed that a Greek tanker was hit by an Exocet missile that morning.

Lebanon

Explosion at UNIFIL Barracks — A "huge explosion" destroyed a building that housed the Irish UNIFIL contingent in the town of Tibnin and wounded four of its soldiers, Beirut radio reported. The report gave no further details of the blast, which occurred early on 28 January.

Waite's Whereabouts — Mixed reports on the whereabouts of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite continue to circulate, with the Archbishop of Canterbury stating that "no direct evidence" suggests Waite is being detained, while acknowledging that the church has had no contacts with Waite's intermediary for more than 1 week, London *Press Association* reported. At the same time, Beirut radio cited a person "close" to Waite's intermediary as saying that the kidnappers "do not intend to detain Waite."

Libya-Chad Conflict

Libya launched an air attack on the Chadian town of Zouar 26-27 January, Ndjamena radio reported. No casualty figures were disclosed.

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Najibullah Addresses 'Former' Rebels 21 Jan
LD231701 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Speech by PDPA General Secretary Najibullah at a meeting with former rebels who joined the process of national reconciliation; held in the Foreign Ministry Storey Palace in Kabul 21 January — recorded]

[Text] I seek God's protection from Satan. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God the Lord of the universe. Peace and progress be upon Muhammad, the messenger of God, his family, and all his companions.

It is a pleasure to see ourselves among our brothers and compatriots, among Afghan brothers, among brothers with honor, nobility and dignity. Love, friendship, and interest in each other increase when we see each other. Sometimes you come to us, and sometimes we come to see you.

Our color, our features, and our faces look alike. What has happened? Why? Why should we be apart not only for a few days, not only for weeks, but for several years. Don't you belong to this soil, to this homeland? You do. Aren't we the sons of this homeland? We are. At the present time you wanted to come and you are very welcome. What is the obstacle we should remove from between us?

We say to each other words of friendship, words of fraternity, words of sincerity, words of Afghanistan, words of the homeland, and words of Islam. Exchanges of these words are important, as opposed to exchanges of fire and shells. Shells can be fired from both sides, but who is being destroyed? Americans? Israelis? No. My brother, my heart, my body, my skin, and my bones. They are being destroyed. All those who are being destroyed here are your brothers too.

What is the point of disagreement? They say that the infidel is in question. I should tell you this is the order of God in the holy Koran. God says in His holy Koran that we have sent the holy Koran for your thoughts and verily we will safeguard it.

I ask you dear brothers only one question, if the guarantee of safeguarding Islam and the sacred religion of Islam has been given in the Koran by God, may He be glorified, who has the ability and which weak creation of God can endanger the sacred religion of Islam?

Our belief in Islam, in the Koran, and in religion has not been diminished. Our will is pure and direct. We can say clearly and with full faith that God has guaranteed the sacred religion of Islam.

There will not be any power or force to endanger the sacred religion of Islam. A question comes to our minds — when you have gone you can discuss this with each other — when God, may He be glorified, says that He safeguards and protects the sacred religion of Islam and a number of people in Pakistan say that the Islamic religion is in danger in Afghanistan, isn't this sacriligious of Islam. Isn't this sacriligious to the greatness and glorification of God, may He be glorified?

We have decided, under the instruction and guidance of God, may He be glorified, to declare Islam as the religion of the people of Afghanistan, the Muslim people of Afghanistan, in the second article of the new DRA Constitution. Why are we making this declaration which has not been in any previous Constitution? Because our people are Muslim, our revolution has taken place for our people, and we represent our people. Therefore, we not only sincerely respect its belief, its religion, its tradition, its customs, and its ways, but we too are followers of these beliefs, customs, and traditions.

The second question: They say that the limited Soviet contingents came to Afghanistan and the people reacted and rebelled against them. Could I ask only one question from our dear friends who are gathered here? The year was 1974. We were still at the university. Gulbuddin was at the university, too. He was in the engineering school. A year later after the Daud coup, he escaped to Pakistan. Rabbani escaped to Pakistan. Ahmad Shah Masod went to Pakistan. During 1974 the events of Panjshir occured. May I ask you, was there a revolution in 1973 and 1974 in Afghanistan? There was not. Who can answer this question: When they went then, what did they stand against in our country? There was no revolution then. The PDPA was not in power.

The Americans and the British wanted to cause discord among our people using sacred Islam and launching the slogans of Infidel-Islam. Why? You know the history of your country. When the sun was not setting on the British empire, our fathers and forefathers confronted the British with defeat in Afghanistan with a [word indistinct] and with a rusty sword. It was at that time that the liberation movements originated. Others used this example and said if the Afghans did it, why couldn't we? Then slowly the movements started against the British, until the whole of England became a limited territory, an island. This historical revenge has been taken from you.

So we say again that the limited Soviet contingents were asked here, when aggression and interference started from without. I told you before that this aggression and interference started in 1974 and 1975, not after a revolution.

We are ready right now and have announced several times that all limited Soviet contingents and all Soviet soldiers will return to their country. We have announced this in connection with the national reconciliation program, at the extraordinary plenum of the Central Committee, at the National Reconciliation Commission, at the second congress of the National Front, and a few days ago at the press conference. Why did a number of armed groups in Pakistan reject it? If we say come, we will reconcile with you so that the Soviets leave. They who did not accept the compromise want the Soviets to stay here. Why are they throwing snow from their roof to ours?

On our behalf, go and visit the whole country, the villages, the cities, and provinces, we will prepare the way for you to go back to Pakistan, and tell them: ' Brothers, we heard Najib say that all Soviet troops will return to their country. The condition for that is to lay down arms, for peace, tranquillity, and security to come here, and each other's children should not be killed any more, each other's brothers should not be killed. Tears should not come to orphans' eyes. The wearing of the black scarf should not

increase in homes. Old mothers should not cry over the dead bodies of their children. And finally the wandering, the homelessness, separation from the family from sons, from spouses, from sisters, and from brothers should be ended. They should lay down their arms, then the limited Soviet contingents will leave tomorrow. But you have seen that we announced national reconciliation. Why? Because if every day 5 or 10 persons are killed on my side, then 5 and 10 persons are being killed on the other side. Those too are mine. Would that there were foreign forces against us. Then Afghans would have given their swords to them, as did their fathers and forefathers. Who is dying? It is my brother from both sides who is dying. Therefore, it is not because I am weak and powerless. I tell you clearly that we have 500,000 men in the Armed Forces. The total of our social organization, including the trade unions and others, will reach 1 million persons. Our power and strength is great. Against whom should I use this power and strength? Against my brother. Against you. Our elders all talked to me, sometimes in Pashto, sometimes in Dari, but our Koran is in common. Our religion is common. Our language is in common. Our feelings are in common. Our mercy is in common. So against who shall I fight? Therefore, the issue of demonstrating power is not in question.

Not only is this in human nature and brotherly feelings, but also God Almighty says: Make peace among the faithful and create understanding among them. Do this because the faithful are brothers. It has been said in the holy Koran that if two groups of the faithful are at war, you should make peace among them.

When, on the basis of these Koranic teachings and with noble and human desire, we ask our brothers and people to make peace, why do they not leave us alone? God Almighty says to make good among brothers. However, there, a number of Islamic parties have announced they would not make peace. What does this mean? Do they want Afghans to kill Afghans? Do they want no one to be left in this country? Who wants this? This is the enemies' desire.

We again extend our invitation through you, go to Pakistan and speak to them. All refugees are ready to return. But Pakistani soldiers, Iranian soldiers, and some armed groups prevent them from returning. They are living in poverty, hunger, disease, and misery. You have been to the camps; you know what is happening there. We invited them to come home and make an honorable living. The resources of the government and state will be put at your disposal because what belongs to the state is not the property of us party members; it belongs to everyone. It is public property and belongs to the people of Afghanistan.

But, I repeat, if we lay down arms, end the fratricide, and ensure peace and security then tomorrow the return of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan will begin. Is there any other obstacle? The opposition may continue to say: We have fought for 8 years to share power and government, to take in our hands this government and this power.

We have announced — and you are a witness to this — that we will share our sovereignty, political sovereignty, and state power with any one who comes and agrees to maintain peace and security with us, so as to end war and fratricide and house-to-house fighting. [applause]

The opposition keep telling us no, that they will not agree to sharing. They want it all. I leave the judgment to you. Should we leave the whole state to them?

Please, you go and see tapa-e shohada [hill where revolution martyrs are buried]. It is an example. Not 10, not 100, but thousands of human beings, our friends and our comrades, have been martyred for their humanitarian goals. We must think of their blood. I ask you another question: All the Islamic groups in foreign countries, in Iran, in Pakistan, in the Western countries — Germany, France, England, Italy — and some in India, number 78 groups, 78 groups in total.

You tell me, you are witnesses to how the various groups have been fighting each other in your villages, in your localities. Jamiat against Hezb-e Eslami, Hezb-e Eslami against the Jamiat-e Eslami. If we give this power to these 78 groups that come, how can we guarantee that this will not cause an escalation in the house-to-house fighting, in the fratricide. I tell you that even if these 78 groups come, then brother will fight brother, son will fight father, and daughter will fight mother.

We are not declaring reconciliation so that the house-to-house fighting will increase or so that the bloodshed, murdering, and plundering will go on. We declared reconciliation to bring tranquillity, peace, and compromise. Reconciliation involves two sides. One side is the government and the state. The other side is composed of the brothers of the opposite side. In the Revolutionary Council statement and in our state and party documents we declared that we will forgive them. But, they should tell us what they are going to forgive. Nobody has told me anything. However, if we sum up the results of the national reconciliation Islam is guaranteed, it has been guaranteed by God. We as His creation, are putting His commands in the Constitution. Furthermore, the limited Soviet contingents will leave under the condition that peace and a compromise are achieved soon. And arms should not be imported from outside.

The recoilless gun, surface-to-surface missiles, mortars — which of these weapons have been made in Afghanistan, or are being made here? Which of these weapons is made in Afghanistan? Where do these weapons come from? From the outside. From where? From America, from England, West Germany is sending them. They are not being killed over there. Nothing of their's is being destroyed. It is we, the Afghans, who are burning in the fire. It is we, the Afghans, whose homes are being destroyed, whose land is being destroyed. Our gardens are being destroyed, and vineyards, our roads are being destroyed.

I received your requests today. You are asking me to construct roads for you, to lay gravel on this road and asphalt on that; to help with your (?vine), to distribute grain freely from Kabul.

This destruction does not affect the foreign countries. It is you and I who will go hungry. It is you and I who will live in poverty and in a state of abjectness. However, the issue is that when we say that the limited Soviet contingents will leave, this is on the condition that these weapons are no longer imported.

The third issue is that we said we will share power with them. What other disagreements are there? They said that a socialist

and communist order is being created in Afghanistan. This is a lie. We have announced that a free, independent, nonaligned, and democratic Afghanistan is being built. Democratic in what meaning? That you and I should have the right to take part in government. There is nothing wrong with this

As for justice and equality, the prophet Omar — God was statisfied with him — used to give sermons on Fridays. One day he said in his sermon: If I deviate from the straight path, the path directed by God, what will you, the people, do with me? The people took their swords from the sheaths and said: We will cut your head off with these swords.

You too are our friends. Come and participate in government and also hold our throat, and ask us what we are doing. Investigate, make inquiries of us. We have to explain things to you and we have to answer you because we do not consider ourself separate from you. Like past governments, we are not from aristocratic and monarchic families and rulers who cold not be seen by anyone. We have come from among you. Our homes are made from mud as are your homes. Your habits are like our habits. We have claimed that the government is a popular government. When it is a popular government then your participation is necessary. Your demands and your views are necessary. Your proposals, your will, your decisions, and your participation is neccessary in this government. That is the meaning of a free, independent, nonaligned, and neutral Afghanistan.

Now, you tell me what issue is left that needs to be resolved so that everthing will be resolved.

A compatriot, a dear brother can raise his voice here and tell me: Najib, you did not pay attention to this point. They want such and such. Tell me what else they want from us. You tell me what we can resolve at this moment between ourselves. There is nothing else. Then, why do they listen to orders from this person or that person and say no, we will fight in Afghanistan. Who are they killing in Afghanistan when they fight? Their brother. I leave the judgement to you. This is our stand.

I am at your service. If there is any question, any dark alley, or any unsolved issue in your mind, you can ask in complete freedom.

Dear compatriots, brothers, comrades, and friends, our request says there has been enough bloodshed and fratricide, enough killing of Afghan by Afghan and killing of Muslims by Muslims. Let our mothers be at peace in their homes. Let our children laugh instead of cry. Let there be no poverty or hunger. Let our Afghanistan be a developed and prosperous Afghanistan. Let our flags be hoisted honorably around the world like the turbans of our fathers and forefathers.

We have everything in our country. We have copper, gold, silver, (?oil), cement; whatever you can mention exists in our country. Roads, houses, and factories will be built for you. With the bravery and courage you possess, we will be able to build in this homeland a prosperous Afghanistan in a few years if you make the effort.

Why shouldn't our brothers who live in mountains be living in more comfortable houses? Why don't they let the people of Afghanistan be happy and prosperous? Who does not want this?

These are the issues I put to you in very clear and simple terms, in your own language. There is nothing more that I can put before you. Our desire is humane and noble, and I know that you have similar thoughts and desires in your hearts and minds. May God bring quiet and peace to this country. There is nothing but peace on your mind; that is why we have raised this call that eminates from your heart.

We realized what is on your mind. We have heard the cries of our mothers and our orphans. We have heard about your wandering and miserable conditions [words indistinct]. I can tell you clearly that had we wanted to solve the problem and eliminate these groups, our own half-million would have been enough for the job. We could settle it within 6 months. I said to you before: If we do this, against whom will it be done? Our Soviet brothers tell us your brothers kill each other. They tell us: Instead of sending the war machine you have requested, we will send assistance such as shoes, wheat, cooking oil, and sugar. This is our stand and our friend's stand. Now judgement is yours. I am at your service. Thank you. [applause]

Najibullah Interviewed on Cease-Fire Results

PM231620 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 22 Jan 87 pp 1,18

[Interview with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah by Giulietto Chiesa in Kabul — date not given]

[Excerpt] Kabul — [scene-setting passage omitted]

[Chiesa] What is the present military and political situation a few days after the cease-fire? Do you think you have achieved your objectives fully or partly?

[Najibullah] As you have been able to see during your visit to our country, the people enthusiastically welcomed and supported this decision made by the party and the state. In the past few days more than 3,000 armed men in Herat Province and other groups, both large and small, in other provinces, have adopted the policy of national reconciliation. We can say, therefore, that the cease-fire has started successfully. However, there is no doubt that those who violate the truce will receive an appropriate response from the Afghan people.

[Chiesa] You have described national reconciliation as the "most urgent and vital problem." Some people have interpreted this initiative as a tactical move; others have seen it as a sign of weakness from the Kabul government; yet others have regarded it as the result of the Soviet desire to extricate themselves from the present situation as quickly as possible. How do you react to these interpretations?

[Najibullah] Everybody is free to make his own judgment. The indisputable fact is that the policy of national reconciliation — as the quickest way of achieving real peace throughout the country and immediately ending the fratricidal war in the DRA — is an urgent and vital necessity for our country and our people.

We are committed to fulfilling this task. Our sincere attitude is proof of our total fidelity to the reconciliation policy.

[Chiesa] In any case the Revolutionary Council's statement is a new departure. Indeed at first the emphasis was placed exclusively on the situation "around Afghanistan." It is now explicitly admitting that there are at least two problems: One is still the problem of "international guarantees" making possible a more or less gradual withdrawal of Soviet troops; the other is a substantial change in "Afghanistan's internal situation" with the creation of a real consensus in support of a coalition government. Do you think the Soviet troops can be withdrawn as a result of political success in the move toward pacification, even if some armed resistance to the central government remains?

[Najibullah] Interference by the imperialist forces led by the United States aided by its allies in the region, is the main cause of the war and the fratricidal conflict in our country. This has caused vast human loss and material damage. The national reconciliation policy adopted to halt the bloodshed and establish peace, is — as you rightly pointed out — a very important event. The continuation of this process, which has the support of the vast majority of Afghan people, requires — whether you like it or not — an end to foreign interference in our country's internal affairs. The national reconciliation process and the Geneva negotiations (between Pakistan and Afghanistan through the mediation of Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative — *L'Unita* editor's note) can have positive effects on each other. Our position on the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingent is absolutely clear. The timetable and conditions for the withdrawal of the Soviet contingent were established a long time ago by the Afghan and Soviet Governments. Foreign interference must be ended and guarantees against its resumption must be given to create the necessary conditions for a full and rapid withdrawal of the Soviet contingent to its peace-loving country. I must tell you frankly that if foreign interference stops, the armed resistance inside the country will not require the Soviet forces to remain in Afghanistan.

[Chiesa] I do not believe that you and your party would have risked a unilateral cease-fire unless you had already obtained — in preliminary contacts with the various opposition groups, armed and unarmed — the assurance that some of them were prepared to start negotiations. Can you tell me how much progress you have made and what guarantees you have given your enemies?

[Najibullah] It is true that we have established contacts with numerous armed groups inside and outside the country with the aim of achieving national reconciliation as quickly as possible. At present we are negotiating with 410 groups. Sound progress has been made and we are convinced that the extraordinary commissions for reconciliation created throughout the country will speed up the process of agreements leading to the end of bloodshed and fratricide. The people's government has adopted practical measures that serve the task of reconciliation and provide the necessary guarantees laid down in the Revolutionary Council statement, in the documents produced by the Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, and in the documents of the second congress of the National Fatherland Front.

[Chiesa] A "reasonable compromise" — as you call it — will have to include concessions to the forces opposed to you and fighting you. I noted a passage in your speech to the second congress of the National Fatherland Front in which you propose broad powers for the extraordinary commissions for reconciliation, including the power to "block the efforts of working groups for land and water resources reform if necessary." Is this one of the concessions made to the landowner class? What other concessions can realistically be expected?

[Najibullah] Given that an end to bloodshed in the fratricidal conflict in our country has now become the people's general aspiration, it is vital at the present stage in our history. National reconciliation is the only way of achieving this. For this purpose the people's government has given the extraordinary commissions broad powers. Of course, the reconciliation process includes the return of our oppressed compatriots. And this will create new conditions in various areas of the country. For this reason, taking account of the practical situation in each area, the extraordinary commissions for reconciliation have, where necessary, the power to halt the activity of the working groups for agrarian and water resources reform. We are prepared to make major concessions on essential issues to achieve full reconciliation.

[Chiesa] The seven parties that direct a considerable part of the armed struggle against the Kabul government from Peshawar have responded negatively to your proposals — not only to the cease-fire but also to the prospect of a compromise.

[Najibullah] First I would like to say that I regard this reaction as extremely shortsighted and irresponsible, showing complete disregard for the people's aspirations to peace. But it is important to remember that they do not represent the whole range of positions existing in the groups and parties abroad. There are a good 78 political groups opposing our government with headquarters in various countries, including France, India, and Britain. I can tell you that we are now in contact with many of these groups and know their various attitudes and positions. I repeat that reconciliation means that both sides must be prepared to make concessions. The reaction of the seven Peshawar groups shows that they are not prepared to make any concessions. However, we know that this is a response that ignores the real situation. Not only are they not all in agreement, but there are some people in their ranks who are weary of the war.

[Chiesa] You mentioned current negotiations with 410 armed groups. Judging from figures cited a few days ago by Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi, according to whom there are approximately 1,300 armed groups totaling 70,000 fighting men, I infer that you have established contacts with rather less than one-third of the guerrilla forces. Could you explain how things stand from this viewpoint?

[Najibullah] Apart from the 3,000 men who accepted the truce at Herat, just in the past few days we have recorded the acceptance of the truce by 500 armed men in Faryab and another 200 in Badakhshan and by other smaller groups. I can also inform you that over 500 leaders of armed groups are about to arrive right here in Kabul. They have accepted the cease-fire and are coming to talk. All in all, I can tell you that the volume of military

operations has already decreased considerably since the truce was declared. I am not talking about our operations which, as I said, have ceased (we respond only if attacked.) I am talking about enemy military activities.

[Chiesa] Your recent speeches reveal a complete absence of controversy with regard to China. What can you tell me about this?

[Najibullah] We are in favor of a return to the tradition of good and friendly relations with the PRC — a great socialist country. Our people would enthusiastically welcome such a development. In the past — both before our revolution and after its initial stages — there were attempts to create and support armed groups against the central government. Now such attempts are no longer apparent.

[Chiesa] In less than a month's time a new round of negotiations with Pakistan will begin in Geneva. What forecasts can be made?

[Najibullah] We attach great importance to these negotiations. There are precise steps forward in this regard. Careful and correct preparations have been made for the next round of talks. We will go to them with courageous and flexible positions. We believe that if the Pakistani Government were to act responsibly, an accord would be possible. Unfortunately, we know that a U.S. delegation is in Islamabad at the moment and all indications are that they will exert pressure on Pakistan to adopt a stubborn stance.

[Chiesa] What about the Soviet Union?

[Najibullah] We want our people to know that the Soviet Government will do its utmost to withdraw from Afghanistan and will support all measures that will permit the problem to be resolved by political means. There are no disagreements between the USSR and Afghanistan. My meetings with Gorbachev demonstrated a complete identity of viewpoints and complete understanding of and support for our initiative. [passage of Chiesa commentary omitted]

Gandhi Talks With Opposition on Border Issue

BK271623 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has made it clear that India has no aggressive intentions against Pakistan. Mr Gandhi made the statement during an hour-long meeting with the opposition leaders in New Delhi this evening. He disclosed that he had a telephonic conversion with the Pakistan prime minister, Mr Junejo.

Mr Gandhi also said that he had a telephonic talk with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, who is currently attending the Islamic conference in Kuwait. Mr Gandhi said he told Mr Mubarak to inform President Zia that India does not want any escalation and it would not like Pakistan also to escalate the situation.

It was also disclosed that Pakistan's foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, will be arriving in New Delhi on Friday [30 January] for discussion for de-escalation of tension on the border. The Indian side for the talks will be led by the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Alfred Gonsalves.

Earlier, the defense minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, gave a detailed account of Pakistan's troop movement. It was also explained why India has to take defensive positions. There had been a concentration of Pakistani forces which could not be treated as defensive. That is why we have to take defensive positions.

The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, also gave an account of India's diplomatic moves. He said the American and the Soviet ambassadors were informed and the prime minister, Mr Gandhi, himself told the Pakistani ambassador in New Delhi, Dr Humayun Khan, that India would like to see the situation on the border de-escalated quickly.

Opposition leaders asked the prime minister whether it would not have been possible to have discussions at the military commanders level of the two countries. The prime minister said that we felt that it could be discussed at the diplomatic level and military leaders will also be present at the meeting. The meeting will enable us to find what is in their mind and why they have acted like this.

Besides representatives of almost all opposition parties and groups in Parliament, the meeting was attended by the home minister, the human resource development minister, and the minister for parliamentary affairs.

Talks With Pakistan To Begin 31 Jan

BK281411 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] India-Pakistan secretary level talks on de-escalation of border tension are to be held in New Delhi on Saturday and Sunday [31 January, 1 February]. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, at a meeting of the Parliament's Consultative Committee in New Delhi today. The committee expressed concern over the developments on the border and endorsed the government's action to defuse the tension. Mr Tiwari explained to them the steps taken by the government, including diplomatic measures, and the discussion with the Soviet and the U.S. Governments.

Other subjects discussed at the meeting were the establishment of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Secretariat at Katmandu, India-Nepalese relations, and the recent visit of a high-level delegation to Vietnam. Mr Tiwari informed the committee that the delegation of which he was the leader held cordial discussions with the Vietnamese leader. He said Vietnam has expressed its keen desire to strengthen its cooperation with India.

Peru's Garcia on Embassy Attack, U.S. Policies

BK271653 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Excerpts] The president of Peru, Dr Alan Garcia, has described the attack on the Indian Embassy in Lima as a criminal act of a small group of rebels. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he said these elements would like to see a subservient colonial government in power in Peru. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, the Peruvian president blamed the International Monetary Fund and such other financial institutions for the impoverishment of the developing countries.

Dr Garcia also criticized the United States for its policies in Central America and blamed it for siphoning off the funds of these countries to finance the rebel groups in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Tiwari, Peru's Tizon Sign Accord

BK260315 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and the foreign minister of Peru, Mr Allan Wagner Tizon, participated in the official-level talks between the two countries. The talks lasted about 100 minutes. There were wide ranges of discussions on matters of bilateral interest.

India and Peru also signed a cultural agreement for reinforcing the friendly relations between the two countries. The minister of external affairs, Mr N.D. Tiwari, signed the agreement on behalf of India and Mr Allan Tizon on behalf of Peru. The agreement provides for exchanges in the fields of culture, education, science, public health, sports and youth activities, press, broadcasting, cinema, and television.

Earlier, the vice president, Mr R. Venkataraman, called on the Peruvian president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house]. Besides other things, they discussed about the Africa Fund summit which concluded in New Delhi today.

Africa Fund Summit Convenes in New Delhi

Gandhi Addresses Opening Session

BK241121 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 24 January address at opening ceremony of African Fund summit — live]

[Text] Chairman Mugabe, presidents, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you to Delhi. This city is the symbol of the struggle against colonialism. Delhi is closely associated with the genesis of the Nonaligned Movement. You have traveled long distances for this gathering in the cause of man's right to be human. It was just 4 months ago that we met at Harare under the distinguished chairmanship of Prime Minister Mugabe. Since that meeting we have lost our dear comrade Samora Machel, a fearless fighter who inspired his people. He lived and died battling against the sinister forces of foreign rule and racism. I offer the brave bereaved people of Mozambique our sympathy. Samora Machel's fight is our fight. It must continue.

Africa is a continent rich in history, rich in resources, rich in cultural achievements, but its people have been subjected to terrible punishment, enslaved, exploited, and humiliated. One by one its people have wreated their independence. Yet, shamefully, the old order persists in the southern reaches of the continent. There the hateful phenomenon called apartheid flaunts its brazenness. Men are born equal. Still, the racists practice unabashed discrimination against all those who are not whites. The only gift it holds out to them is the chain of oppression.

It was almost a 100 years ago that Mahatama Gandhi, then a young man in his 20's, was pushed out of a train by a white in South Africa. The century from Mahatma Gandhi to Nelson Mandela has seen brutality in South Africa degenerate into barbarism. But, like the Mahatma, Mandela will emerge victorious. Pretoria's depredations are not confined to South Africa. The evil overflows its boundaries. Nine years ago, the Security Council decided that Namibia should achieve its independence forthwith. Attempts have been made to link Namibia's freedom with irrelevant consideration if we repudiate and denounce this linkage. The pernicious sway of Pretoria over the Namibian people is a continuing affront to the conscience of the world. Several countries have been conniving with the brigands. We stand with the Namibian people in their struggle. We salute and support SWAPO. Pretoria intimidates and destabilizes the Frontline States. The brigands are financed and armed. Railways, ports, pipelines, power plants, bridges, and factories are blown up or crippled. Exhorbitant tariffs are imposed. Unconscionable delays are encouraged. Neighboring states are threatened with border closure. All this is done to keep them in the trap of dependence. The Pretoria regime constitutes a clear threat to international peace. It must be removed and removed now. We must continue to press for comprehensive mandatory sanctions. There is already a welcome shift in the position of some countries. Deaf ears have begun to hear. Those who support apartheid are accessories to the impending bloodshed. Let not the racist South Africa imagine that their powerful friends can sustain them forever. Weak though we were, we have brought down empires. We shall compel Pretoria to submit.

The Africa Fund was established at Harare to go to the help of all those who are victims of the apartheid regime, the people of South Africa, the people of Namibia, and the people of the Frontline States. It is a fund meant to assist those whose struggle is our struggle. It is a fund to finish apartheid. It is a fund to forestall bloodshed. It is a fund for peace. It is a fund for the triumph of the human spirit. I welcome you in the name of human freedom. Thank you.

SFRY's Hasani Addresses Summit

BK251117 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0533 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Address by Yugoslav President Sinan Hasani at opening ceremony of Africa Fund summit in Delhi — live in Serbo-Croatian with simultaneous English translation]

[Text] Mr Chairman, your excellencies, dear friends: It is a great pleasure to be in Delhi, in friendly India. The reason for our gathering here today makes the pleasure even greater. Thank you, Mr Prime Minister, for your words of welcome. On this occasion also we saw that India knows how to share the tradition of hospitality with its friends. We highly appreciate the attention and sympathy extended to us here. The lofty mission around which nonaligned Algeria, Argentina, India, Congo, Nigeria, Peru, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Yugoslavia have gathered is an opportunity for me on behalf of Yugoslavia to greet you Mr Chairman, and our friends Kenneth Kaunda, Chadli Bendjedid, Robert Mugabe, Alan Garcia, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Augustus Aikhomu, and Dante Caputo.

Allow me once again to express our thanks and our great appreciation for the efforts the Government of India and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have exerted for bringing about this meeting. Not only commitment to a goal, but also the capability to act efficiently were necessary for a very important decision of the Eighth [Nonaligned] Summit to be given practical effect in only a few months. It is symbolic that we have gathered in Delhi to reach an agreement on a large-scale international action of aid to and solidarity with the countries and people of southern Africa in their struggle for their fundamental right to independence and life in dignity and freedom.

Four decades ago, the liberation of India heralded the collapse of the colonial era. This happened in the country of Mahatama Gandhi, a legend then and today, the country of the struggle against colonialism, every injustice against man's discrimination against people. On the road toward freedom in this struggle against the greatest colonial empire of that time, Mahatama Gandhi started precisely from southern Africa. Nevertheless, so many decades later, the injustice against which Mahatama Gandhi waged his struggle has not been eliminated from this region. At the end of the 20th century, a period during which mankind attained enormous achievements, apartheid still persists in the south of Africa. This most brutal form of discrimination against and inequality among people still exists, madness took a toll of thousands of lives and great human sufferings. The system of apartheid on which the racist regime of Pretoria is based means bloodshed, genocide, repression, violence. It means the destruction of a whole people, the deprived

majority population only because it demands and struggles for its survival, human dignity, and freedom. Lawlessness and arrogance have become methods in the hands of the regime. Pretoria shrinks neither from state terrorism nor aggression. Its consciously kindles the racial fire, threatening to encompass the whole region and posing a danger to peace and security on a broader international scale. No civilized conscience can remain calm, nor a peace-loving and progressive force indifferent in the face of all this. Flauntingly before the world public, Pretoria permanently engages in military operations against the Frontline States; recruits, trains, finances and infiltrates mercenaries of all kinds into the territories of Angola and Mozambique, nonaligned, and friendly countries in order to destabilize them politically and economically and undermine their independence.

Delays in taking efficient measures which would bridle such a policy and eliminate the apartheid regime, the prolonging of Namibia's gaining indepencence, represent to say the least, overt support to the racist regime in South Africa. This cannot but deeply concern us. The basic standards of international behavior and order make it incumbent on all the factors of the international community, particularly the most influential ones, to extend resolute, moral, political, economic, and every other kind of assistance to the frontline countries, the peoples of South Africa and Namibia.

As a first step, this involves the moral and political condemnation and application of comprehensive economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime. Within this action it is incumbent on all the peace-loving and democratic forces of the world to take concrete measures of condemnation, boycott, and pressure on the Pretoria regime. [applause].

In Harare, the Nonaligned Movement once again strongly raised its voice against the raging of racism in South Africa, against the inciting of an explosive situation in the region. The Nonaligned Movement, the strongest moral factor in the process of decolonization, demonstrated its solidarity, its all out support to the people of Namibia and its liberation movement, to the people of South Africa and its heroic struggle. Once again we manifested our all out support to the frontline countries. The Africa Fund, which we decided to set up — the reason for our gathering here in Delhi — should quickly and efficiently contribute to the materialization of this support and to the channeling of assistance toward the Frontline States and the liberation movements of southern Africa. [applause]. We wish that this initiative (?activates) all the influential factors of the international community, the governments of all the countries of the world, international organizations, even every individual, so as to contribute to this action through various types of material aid. This implies the greatest possible action toward mobilizing world public opinion in applying comprehensive sanctions with regard to the Pretoria regime. Allow me before this distinguished gathering to state that, in pursuit of Tito's policy, Yugoslavia never hesitated within the limits of possibilities to give full support to the movements of the frontline countries for maintaining their independence against aggression. This has been our permanent policy and commitment. In this spirit, Yugoslavia will also give its maximum possible contribution to the fund. Thank you, Mr Chairman. [applause].

Zambia's Kaunda Speaks

BK241515 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0441 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Speech by Dr Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia and vice chairman of the Africa Fund Committee, at summit of the Africa Fund Committee in New Delhi — live]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman, my dear colleagues, honorable ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for me this morning to convey through you, Mr Chairman, the warm greetings from the people of Zambia to their brothers and sisters in India. [passage omitted thanking Indian leaders for their opposition to apartheid]

Mr Chairman, for some of us who were born at the time when South Africa was the El Dorado in the subregion of the African Continent and grew up in the face of the most obnoxious system of economic exploitation and racial discrimination mankind has ever known, we cannot but thank our lucky stars that the heads of state and government of the movement of nonaligned countries saw it fit to establish a fund that should enable us to extricate ourselves from the horrible and the abominable tentacles of that system. We are thankful for that. We are even more thankful because, having lived as strange bedfellows with the apartheid regime for almost a century and thereby found ourselves part and parcel of its economic network, having witnessed at first hand the degredation of humanity, the deprivation of mankind, and the destruction of the people's social framework under the system of apartheid, and having championed the campaign for the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa as the only peaceful method of eradicating apartheid, the international community in general, and the movement of the nonaligned countries in particular, have responded positively to render assistance to the Frontline States and the liberation movement in southern Africa.

Mr Chairman, while the international community has been contemplating to impose sanctions against Pretoria, the apartheid regime has not been idle. On the contrary, it has intensified its acts of sabotage, destabilization, and naked aggression against the frontline and other independent neighboring states. Bandits sponsored and backed by Pretoria are engaged in activities aimed at the destruction of vital transport and communications installations. Transport corridors to Beira, Maputo, (Nakala), and indeed Lobito are no longer easily accessible to those of our states that depend on them. All this is intended to ensure that the Frontlilne States remain dependent on South African corridors. The situation will get worse when the sanctions envisaged take effect.

Mr Chairman, what I have said boils yet to one very important human aspect — that of the refugee situation in the southern African subregion. Besides the disruption of vital communications structures, banditry acts in Angola and in Mozambique, and brutal repressive measures being taken by the South African racist regime, have led to an increased influx of refugees in neighboring states. This, in turn, has had and continues to have distressing effects on our national economies.

Mr Chairman, the solution to all these problems hinges on the eradication of apartheid. Therefore, the creation of the Africa Fund by the nonaligned countries as well as the timely resolution by the 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly, which requested the international community to support the aims and objectives of the fund and also the actions of various appeals either through their national executive organs or non-governmental organizations to impose economic sanctions against South Africa, deserve the support and commitment of [the] international community.

Mr Chairman, it will be a gross understatement to say that the Afrikaaner clique perpetuates the system of apartheid in South Africa and colonialism in Namibia. The real truth is that the shortsighted and conservative political administrators in some Western countries clamoring to the whims and designs of the magnets who control transnational corporations are the ones who are indirectly responsilble for the continued existence of the two evil systems in our part of the world. Thus, the white minority regime in South Africa is encouraged to maintain the political status quo in order to safeguard its own survival as well as the economic interests of the transnational corporations. It is, therefore, right and proper that the war of liberation in South Africa and Namibia should be fought on the economic front. This is because it will help to cut (? where it hurts) most and make them realize their folly in supporting an evil system that is destined to crumble. The people in Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe had to wade through their blood in order to gain their independence.

It is important that the international community should uphold its moral obligation to ensure that what happened in those countries does not happen in South Africa and Namibia. That is why we in that subregion urge the entire international community to cooperate in enforcing comprehensive monetary-economic sanctions against South Africa in order to bring about the desired political change.

Mr Chairman, dear brothers and sisters and all comrades: The alternative to this only remaining peaceful method of a change which will undoubtedly lead to immediate victory by the oppressed masses will leave behind untold loss of human life, desolation, and devastation.

Mr Chairman, we in [the] Frontline States know very well, very well indeed, the extent of our economic dependence on South Africa. But, notwithstanding, we are committed in our resolve to isolate South Africa economically. Our economies are frail and vulnerable, but we are more than ready to make a sacrifice for the sake of liberating our fellow human beings who are currently subjected to all forms of oppression and suppression. We are convinced that until such time that our brothers and sisters in South Africa attain majority rule and those in Namibia achieve independence, our present political independence will forever remain hollow and meaningless. It is our hope and prayer that the creation of the Africa Fund will enable us to pull through during this period of transition to majority rule in South Africa and independence in Namibia.

Long live the African National Congress! Long live SWAPO! Long live the Nonaligned Movement, and thank you and God bless you all. [applause]

Speech by Algeria's Bendjedid Cited

LD242029 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Excerpts] The Nonaligned Movement, which is loyal to its major principles and options, represented particularly in its commitment to and solidarity with just causes in the world, is witnessing a prominent event. This event is represented in the opening of the proceedings of the summit conference of the nine member countries of the Nonaligned Movement's fund committee for supporting the African Frontline States.

Brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, delivered a speech at the opening session of the committee's proceedings. In the beginning of his speech, he commended the convening of the conference which realizes the nonaligned countries' commitment toward southern Africa. He pointed out that the establishment of the fund for supporting the Frontline States constituted the immortalizing of commitment to effective solidarity with just causes in the world. The brother president noted in his speech that organizing resistance against the dangerous features of apartheid means endeavoring to put up a great challenge through peoples' movements, establishing their legitimate rights, and organizing to create the right opportunities which would help to destroy apartheid, which represents the precondition for the triumph of basic human rights. Apartheid has been clearly defined as a crime against humanity and its outward features are harmful to world peace, especially to the freedom of the countries and peoples of southern Africa, their independence, and security. He stressed that the efforts made over the past 10 years would bear results. [passage omitted]

He said that our movement, by calling for comprehensive and compulsory sanctions against Pretoria, aims for the triumph of justice over the force of absolute rule. The international community could contribute to alleviating the great hardship suffered by the people of South Africa, whose dignity is trodden over and whose national rights are usurped, through organized, collective action. [passage omitted]

Hasani Addresses Concluding Session

BK251016 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0427 GMT 25 Jan 87

[SFRY President Sinan Hasani's 25 January Address to the concluding session of the Africa Fund summit in New Delhi — live in Serbo-Croatian with simultaneous English translation; processed from English]

[Text] Dear friends and officials: The end of our meeting is approaching. I would, therefore, like to say a few words about the impressions and expectations with which we are leaving Delhi. Firstly, I believe we could leave with a common feeling of satisfaction one has when a job is well done. We worked in a spirit

of constructiveness and reached agreement on the key issues of the fund's operation. By achievening this, we have performed an important part of the task that was entrusted to us by the [Nonaligned] Movement at the eighth summit.

The meeting in New Delhi is the consummation of many months of activities on the implementation of one [of] the most significant decisions brought at the conference in Harare. The struggle against apartheid, pressures, and aggression in the southern part of the African Continent necessitates even more specific modalities, coordinated action on the part of both the nonaligned countries and the broader international (?community) in various fields and, in particular in the economic ones. That is precisely what generated our common desire to offer solutions for the fund, the purpose of which is to support in a concrete manner and to assist materially the frontline countries which are directly exposed to pressures and destabilization so they can persevere in their struggle.

While advocating the universal application of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, nonaligned countries have always emphasized the necessity of engaging the entire international community in the struggle against apartheid. It is logical, therefore, that the fund was conceived and established as a universal open-type institution. When the decision on the establishment of this fund was brought, an appeal was sent to the world from Harare. I hope it shall, together with this appeal which will be launched from Delhi, stimulate the broadest participation in the action of assistance, namely, that it will bear fruit for everyone in the world. A contribution to the fund should be a concrete expression of solidarity with the objectives for which the international community declared itself.

Dear friends, today we have laid the foundation for the work of this solidarity fund which is only first step. As members of the committee, we bear special responsibility for the full implementation of our decision and the successful operation of the fund. However, the work that lies ahead will be successful only with the active participation and assistance of all the member countries of the movement and all those who choose to participate in the activities of the fund. That is why, once again I am expressing the hope that the appeal which we adopted today will receive the fullest support of the nonaligned and other developing countries, industrialized countries of both the West and the East, international organizations, and other institutions and individuals.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi once again for the efforts India has exerted in order to bring this meeting to a successful conclusion and express my satisfaction, dear friends, with the effective and useful cooperation we have achieved here. Thank you [applause].

Africa Fund Action Plan Detailed

BK250939 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] The Africa Fund has been formally launched with India pledging 50 crore rupees as its contribution. The 9-nation summit concluded in New Delhi this morning after adopting a plan of action and rules of procedure to administer the fund.

In an appeal, the leaders called for universal conscience for urgent and resolute action to dismantle apartheid. They urged all nations, international financial and other organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the fund. They said the Frontline States must receive the fullest support of the international community to face the campaign of intimidation, economic disruption, and even blatant military aggression by the Pretoria regime.

The plan of action adopted at the summit provides for specific measures to strengthen the economic capability of the Frontline States to assist them in enforcing sanctions against South Africa. It will also help them effectively withstand any retaliatory action by the racist regime. It spells out measures to support the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia.

The fund will mainly concentrate on emergency measures related directly to the struggle against apartheid while working closely with the regional organizations engaged in long-term economic development. The action plan includes the establishment of a strategic foodgrain reserve of 1.5 lakh tons and supply of surpluses within the region to deficit countries. Projects have been identified to improve transport and communication systems.

In his closing address, the chairman of the Africa Fund, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, disclosed that the fund has already received contributions worth $70 million. The first contribution came from a young schoolboy of Vellore in southern India who collected 150 rupees from his friends and neighbors. The prime minister said the fund, inspired by the Nonaligned Movement, reflects the worldwide urge for action against apartheid. Our basic task, he said, is to persuade the economically and militarily powerful nations not to bolster apartheid, but throw their might on the side of human good. The powerful must agree to comprehensive mandatory sanctions. The prime minister was confident that without the moral and material support which Pretoria receives from a handful of countries apartheid would collapse, ending also the illegal occupation of Namibia and persistent destablization of the Frontline States. He said sanctions are the only nonviolent means left to counter the violence of apartheid.

The chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, said the plan of action is a realistic assessment of the real needs of the domestic and external victims of apartheid.

The president of Zambia and the vice chairman of the Africa Fund, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, said it is incumbent on the international community to take proper measures for implementing the action plan.

The Algerian president, Mr Chadli Bendjedid, said politically the cause of the people in South Africa already enjoys widest sympathy and support. What is required now is to complement this growing awareness by increasing concrete material support.

The president of Congo, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, expressed happiness that the summit has come out with a wide range of proposals to help the Frontline States and freedom movements in southern Africa.

The president of Peru, Dr Alan Garcia Perez, said that the fund gives a practical shape to the moral and political commitment of the Nonaligned Movement countries to help the Frontline States.

President Sinan Hasani of Yugoslavia said that the fund expresses the solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement with the struggling people of South Africa and Namibia.

The chief of general staff of Nigeria, Rear Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, said that his country pledges $15 million to the fund over the next 3 years. Nigeria will also continue to give bilateral assistance to Frontline States.

Mr Dante Caputo, minister of foreign relations and worship of Argentina, was confident that the Africa Fund will intensify the struggle against apartheid. A postage stamp commemorating the Africa Fund summit was released on the occasion.

The presidents of Algeria, Zambia, and Congo, and the prime minister of Zimbabwe have left New Delhi for home at the end of the summit.

Agreement Signed With Zimbabwe on Commission

BK231721 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] India and Zimbabwe today signed an agreement in New Delhi for establishing a joint commission to promote bilateral relations, particularly in the economic sphere. The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Dr Mangwende, and the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, signed the agreement. The commission will meet every year and consider various areas in which the two countries can expand their relations. The two ministers described the agreement as an example to other developing countries for increasing South-South cooperation.

SRI LANKA

LTTE Jaffna Field Commander Reported Missing

BK241207 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] Kittu, the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Jaffna field commander, has disappeared from view (?fuelling) speculation that he has either been liquidated or is kept in confinement. However, there were no confirmed reports of his fate. Official sources said Kittu was a close relative of Prabhakaran and his operational and propaganda role for the LTTE in the field of Jaffna could not be easily forgotten. However, these sources said that the LTTE leader was cold blooded and the organization had the blood of many of its members on his hands — men like (Satkurin Raja) and Michael who were bumped off in the Vavuniya training camp in 1976.

In 1982, (Sundaram Morsi) was killed at the Chitra Press in Jaffna followed by execution of Oberoi Devan, once a close associate of Prabhakaran for not taking orders. Officials recollect the shootout at (Pondi Bazar) in in Madras where the LTTE tried to eliminate PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization Tamil Eelam] leader Uma Mahashwaram.

Reports from Batticaloa indicated a major clash between the LTTE, relatively weak in the district, and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] which had (?beefed up) its (?presence) in preparation for a major confrontation.

Tamil Radio Urges Resistance to LTTE Tactics

BK251710 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 18 Jan 87

[News commentary]

[Text] Reports from Jaffna say the Jaffna District organizer and the member of the Central High Command of People's Liberaton Organization of Tamil Eelam, Vijayabalan, alias Mengis, was mysteriously killed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. When the LTTE took special action against the PLOTE last December, Mengis was captured and kept in detention. After a long inquiry, he was mysteriously murdered by members of the LTTE in the early morning of 11 January.

The revolutionary forces of Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka are very much shocked and concerned at his death. Such cold-blooded murders are usually committed in jails by reactionary, dictatorship governments. But the brutal murders carried out in prisons by the LTTE — the so called responsible organization fighting for the liberation of people — cannot be allowed. Such activities as shooting down surrendered comrades from fellow organizations reflect the high-handed doctrine of the LTTE High Command and reveals its attempts to form a government of military dictatorship. In addition to callng upon people to exhibit their strength to prevent the recurrence of murders like those of Gafoor and Mengis, leaders of fellow organizations who were captured and killed by the LTTE, the Communist Party of Tamil Eelam condemns the outrageous act of the LTTE High Command.

The first murder carried out at the instruction and under the direct supervision of Comrade Prabhakaran, who returned to Tamil Eelam after 4 years, is that of Mengis. It may be recalled that Comrade (Abaragavan) was killed in August 1983. In his strict instructions issued to his regional commanders, Prabhakaran has asked them to kill secretly the top leaders of EPRLF and PLOTE.

Sources close to the LTTE have reported that the LTTE commanders from Mannar and Vavuniya who have acknowledged this instruction have come forward to send some of the captured EPRLF regional leaders to Jaffna but the commanders of Batticaloa region have strongly criticized this. Under the present circumstances it is understood that the associates of Kumarappa [associate of LTTE leader Prabhakaran] realize that if they kill the Batticaloa EPRLF leaders they will have to face the stiff opposition of the people there. Therefore, we would like to point out an important matter. In the past, we have made constructive comments openly before the organizations and the Tamil people. We have pointed out right and wrong with proper evidence and prudence. In the past, we have painfully witnessed the sad incidents of clashes between the revolutionary forces leading to their weakening. These revolutionary forces emerged to fight for the national and social upliftment of Tamil Eelam.

Now the people cannot keep silent and allow such things to continue. At this juncture, all people should unite and use their unified strength against the (?autocratic) acts of reactionaries and individuals. The present (?extremist), unilateral, and evil decision taken by Prabhakaran can be confronted only by the combined opposition of the people.

Following the murders of Gafoor and Mengis, a situation constantly endangering the lives of the members of TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], EPRLF and PLOTE has been created. The Communist Party of Tamil Eelam appeals to these members along with their leaders to act carefully and not to surrender to the LTTE and hand over their weapons at any cost. It is really useful to recall the statement by Rathnam, the political adviser of the EPRLF in Batticaloa, that dying as a revolutionary holding a weapon and shedding blood is far better than dying as a disarmed coward before the LTTE.

EROS Plot To Set Off Bombs Discovered

BK241133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] A plot by EROS [Eelam Revolution Organization of Students] members to set off bombs every week at key government installations has been uncovered by the intelligence services of the police. The method of transport of necessary materials from Jaffna to Wellawatte to manufacture these bombs which though compartively cheaper, are capable of inflicting heavy damage, has also been discovered. This discovery followed questioning of suspects arrested last week in connection with the abortive attempt to plant a powerful bomb in a petrol bowser at Wellawatte, which was foiled by two alert policemen. The arrival of a number of EROS members to Colombo to carry out these attempts too was discovered by the police when they questioned the nine suspects who are now in custody.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Hostages, U.S. Ties

LD281600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] Dear listeners: As announced at the beginning of the newscast, Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in an interview with a correspondent of the U.S. CBS television network, exposed the failure of the repeated attempts by the United States to establish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his interview, the CBS correspondent said: The most important question that many Americans would like answered is: When did the issue of the sale of weapons and the establishment of contacts with Iran start, and who started those contacts?

In reply, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, emphasizing that this interview should be carefully recorded and faithfully broadcast by that television network, said: After the victory of the revolution and the start of the imposed war, the United States did not act in accordance with its guarantees for providing us with the spare parts for our weapons, which were mainly U.S. weapons, including aircraft, radar, helicopters, and some of our guns — our defenses [padafand] and missiles. So naturally we purchased spare parts for these weapons from any source we could — except from Israel, of course, as we are committed to not having any dealings with Israel because it is a usurper. We purchased these spare parts through some middlemen or companies, and this was not something hidden or secret. We had announced this, and our people knew it too.

After the issue involving the hijacking of the TWA aircraft, which took place in Lebanon, — we helped in solving that crisis — U.S. officials sent messages to us through various governments and official figures, including through the Japanese, indicating that they were ready and prepared to provide for our needs. They also asked us to help them in saving the lives of other U.S. hostages in Lebanon. Of course, we could not believe them, because we could see many signs of U.S. hostility toward us, and we could not believe that they were prepared to act sincerely. We have also never seen the United States act truthfully. When the U.S. officials lost hope in those messages, they thought of making use of arms dealers, and they turned to them. The U.S. officials told them that the United States was prepared to give Iran the spare parts that it would otherwise purchase on the black market, and that the United States expected Iran to help in saving the hostages in Lebanon.

During that time we tested the United States, but the result of those tests was negative. Then we were informed that a U.S. delegation had arrived in Iran on a plane that had been given permission to bring us spare parts from Ireland, and that Mr McFarlane was heading that delegation.

In order to know why the U.S. delegation had undertaken that trip, we said that they should be taken to a hotel. In the course of discussions with intelligence officials, among whom was a person, incognito, who was familiar with political issues, we came to the conslusion that they were not acting in good faith, that these gentlemen had arrived in Iran without permission, that they lied and had only brought a quarter of the spare parts they should have brought in the aircraft. Also, the forging of government documents, including the passports of the Irish Government, and the fact that they had brought Mr Reagan's message for the leaders of our country, increased our suspicion, especially the sidearms they brought as so-called presents. These were among the elements that smelled of a kind of conspiracy. At the same time, when they were here, we sent a delegation to Lebanon and our envoys succeeded, by finding them certain clues, in conveying to the U.S. officials the demands of the hostage-takers and the Lebanese mojahedin.

Later, we discovered that U.S. officials were not acting on the demands of the Lebanese mojahedin. In their discussions they even falsely alleged that 30-odd Soviet divisions were on our northern borders ready to attack Iran in the near future.

We were justified in detaining that delegation. Mr McFarlane was also very angry due to the fact that the Iranian officials did not agree to meet with him, receive his message, or accept his presents.

Later developments showed that the United States still had her hostile attitude toward us, including the fact that even though they knew that we were not prepared to have any dealings or contacts with Israel, they talked about the purchase of weapons by Iran from Israel. They then mixed this issue with the issue of Afghanistan and Nicaragua, which revealed their ill-will and their misuse [of contacts], and that it was all lies. They said that some of the weapons that were given to us by the United States were for delivery to Afghanistan. They said that they had done that [sold weapons to Iran] in order to make contacts with Iranian moderates. Their intention in uttering such big lies was to create disunity and suspicion inside our country. They claimed that they had paid money to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries from the profits of those deals, although they knew that we assist the Nicaraguan Government in order to suppress the rebels.

The U.S. defense secretary said: We sold TOW missiles at a cheap price to the CIA and the CIA has sold them at higher prices to Iran through arms dealers. In fact, it is not clear who misused the funds in the United States, and how large the profits have been. The total amount of the deal in that instance was less than $40 million altogether, and they received about $30 million from us. How much profit was there in that deal, and where did that financial corruption start?

Referring to the poor management in the U.S. Administration, and the fact that the relations between various parties in the United States are hurting the interests of the U.S. people and the country, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The latest lie told by U.S. officials was the one told by Secretary of State Shultz who claimed, 2 days ago, that after the affair became public, the talks continued between White House officials and our representatives, and that the U.S. State Department put a stop to it. Mr Shultz had sent a person named (?Dunbar) to talk to our procurement agents, and he put forward a proposal; but we said that we would not accept any more proposals from the United States because we did not trust it.

Mr Shultz then told the United States that: I stopped the talks.

We have a tape of his meeting with arms dealers abroad, where

he wanted to put forward two or three proposals for continuing the talks. But we rejected them. We said: Tell them that what we are saying is clear. As a sign of goodwill, you should release our assets; for our part, we will try to help you in Lebanon. We can only deal with you on those bases; we will not go any further.

Then, referring to the false statements made by U.S. officials who had said: We went to Iran on our own passports, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani showed a photocopy of Mr McFarlane's forged Irish passport to the CBS correspondent. He said: If necessary we will produce the photocopies of the passports, numbering 10, for the American people.

Later in the interview, the Majlis speaker added: At present, the United States is mixing the issue that is before the court of The Hague, which is not related to other issues, with the issue of the hostages, and it has deferred from following the verdict of the court of The Hague — that the United States must repay $500 million to Iran. All this shows that U.S. officials, be they Democrats, Republicans, or from the White House, who say that it is in their interests to improve relations with Iran, are incapable of making a proper decision.

In reply to a question by the CBS correspondent, who asked: How much did Iran pay, in total, in the deal? Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We paid about $20 million for the tanks and about $10 million for the Hawk parts. The dealers claim that we still owe them some money. But we are waiting to see what the true price is.

The correspondent asked: It was reported in the United States that the Iranian Government paid the U.S. Government $45 million through the dealers. There is a difference of about $15 million.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: I doubt if it is so. The price paid is as much as I said.

The correspondent said: The U.S. Government has admitted that it had contacts with Iran until the beginning of last month. Does this correspond with the (?Dunbar) affair?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: They were never in direct contact with Iran. They were in contact with procurement agents through those same middlemen. I think that the contact has not been severed yet, so that we are still receiving parts.

In reply to a question by the CBS correspondent, who asked: It was announced that the U.S. Government placed intelligence reports at the disposal of Iraq and Iran. What is the reaction of the Iranian Government to this? Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Regarding the placing of intelligence reports by the United States at Iraq's disposal, this is clear to us. Your officials have admitted to it, too. But, with regard to the United States giving us any information, I strongly deny this. Furthermore, if they were to give us some information, it would be useless to us.

Regarding another question by the CBS correspondent about the U.S. Government saying that Iran should not expand the war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: We do not want the war to spread. This is perfectly clear. We think that Mr Reagan has made these comments to ease the internal pressure, and also to make his agents in the region pay more attention to the United States. This is because he knows that the war will not spread, and that the issue is not very serious.

In reply to a question by the U.S. correspondent on Iran's conditions for establishing relations with the United States, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We have no bad feelings for the American people. It is the U.S. Government that has acted badly. In addition to being responsible for some of the crimes committed during the shah's reign, the U.S. Government has acted badly after the revolution. The spying by the U.S. Embassy in Iran, the U.S. connection with the attempted coup against us in Iran, and the U.S. hand in the imposed war and her help to Iraq are among these issues. It is your government that was hostile to our people before the revolution, and to our people and government after the revolution. There is only one condition [as heard]: The United States must prove that it is not hostile to our people, government, and revolution. Of course, there are other conditions. If the United States wants to continue supporting Israel, as she has been doing, then naturally our relations with the United States will never be friendly.

The correspondent asked: How can the United States show that it is not hostile to Iran?

The Majlis speaker said: The U.S. Government should release our assets that have been unlawfully frozen in the United States. That would be one form of proof for us.

The CBS correspondent said: The American people may like Iranians, but they do not trust the Iranian Government.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In any case, misleading propaganda, such as your propaganda, has caused this.

In reply to a question by the U.S. correspondent who asked what he could to to allay the mistrust of the American people regarding issues such as terrorism and taking people as hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: All this has been put in the minds of the public by your mass media. No country has suffered more than Iran from terrorism.

Referring to the blowing up of the prime minister's office, which caused the martyrdom of the president [Raja'i] and the prime minister [Bahonar]; the explosion at the central office of the Islamic Republican Party, and the martyrdom of 72 of the country's leaders, including ministers and Majlis deputies; and the United States giving shelter and support to terrorists and counterrevolution agents, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Is it fair to say that we are terrorists and you are not? Why is it that if an American were to be taken hostage, that is a terrorist act; but those who come and talk on your radios, who kill dozens of Iranians and explode bombs at our Friday prayers, are not terrorists? You should explain this to your people. [passage indistinct]

Regarding the U.S. Embassy, you betrayed our people [words indistinct]. If you explain to your people that the United States was hostile to Iran, and that we reacted, your people will be

convinced and will understand. In any case, if the United States wants to solve these problems, the solution is in U.S. hands.

The reporter asked: What should the United States do that would be acceptable to you and would make you help in the release of the hostages?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: If the United States releases our properties we will also help in the release of the hostages.

The reporter of the U.S. CBS network asked: Imam Khomeyni seems tired and weak. Could you please tell us what is the physical and mental state of the imam?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: Thanks be to God, in view of the very advanced age his holiness the imam is very well and enjoys excellent health. Due to excessive work and study, which makes one feel tired, he may look tired at times. However, he is both cheerful and healthy. We hope that he will enjoy a long life for the sake of the revolution, and that he will be able to lead the revolution to his goals.

The U.S. reporter asked: To what extent does his great eminence the imam involve himself in decisions?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: He is not in the habit of interfering in the work of the officials. Therefore, every official performs his own duties. At times when he decides that something should be done better, he will offer his guidance. If we have some difficulties in our work, we solve them with his help.

The U.S. correspondent asked: What was the reaction of his great eminence the imam about the recent events concerning the United States?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: He did not have any special reaction, but usually he advises us to be careful and not to be deceived.

The reporter of the U.S. CBS television network asked: What is Iran's position in the war against Iraq?

The representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: We will not end the war without the elimination of the Ba'th Party in Iraq. When the Ba'th Party is eliminated, then both peace and security will be established in the region, Iraq will be liberated, and we will also be relieved.

The U.S. correspondent asked: What is the situation of war for Iran?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Your reporters are here. They can go and see for themselves. They can also see Basra from a short distance.

At the end of this interview, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, addressed the CBS reporter and said: I expect you to be truthful, otherwise this will be our last interview.

Montazeri Addresses Lebanese Officials in Qom

LD281415 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Excerpts] A delegation of Lebanese ulema and personalities who are responsible for pursuing and implementing the cease-fire proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in Lebanon, met yesterday with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. In the course of this meeting, a report was presented on the siege of the Palestinian camps, on the occupation of Maghdushah, the progress of the IRI's plan and efforts to solve this problem.

Afterwards, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while welcoming the audience and paying tribute to the Muslim Lebanese youths for their Islamic resistance and self-sacrifice against Israel, graciously said: The Iraqi 'Aflaqites continue to drop bombs and fire missiles every night and every day on the innocent people of the Iranian cities and even the holy city of Qom, which is the shrine of a descendant of the prophet. Although, these attacks are martyring a number of our women, children, and men, and while our dear and Muslim youths are engaged in the war imposed on Islamic Iran, nevertheless, since the Muslims are all a united nation and since Islam is not a monopoly of Iran or of any other particular country, to use the problems of Lebanon are also part of our own problems. I remember when I was in the shah's prison that although the people of Iran used to pour into the streets daily and some of them were being martyred, we were sad about the clashes in Lebanon.

His eminence, stressing the need for safeguarding unity, graciously added: As I have explained before, the Shi'ite and Sunni ulema of Lebanon should strengthen their unity and achieve understanding. At a time when we are facing a common enemy, the people, and particularly the ulema of Lebanon should pay attention to this divine duty. Minor differences should be discarded and the five religious factions, the same as the five fingers of a hand, should become a clenched fist against Israel and against the infidels of the East and the West. If there have been some differences in the past, we should discard them today. And now that the Palestinians are away from their homeland and homeless, we should give refuge to those who have no houses or are not settled yet. We should arm them against Israel so that they can continue the struggle. This is an Islamic duty.

His eminence said: It is a betrayal of Islam and of the Muslims that political groups have turned innocent people into shields for their political objectives by dragging the war inside the camps and among defenseless women and children. Even if, hypothetically, a group is at war with another group, it is religiously unlawful to drag the war inside the camps or into other residential areas. It is also wrong to make the roads unsafe, or to lay siege and deprive people of food, medicine, water, and electricity and cause the blood of innocent people to be shed. The more the blood of these innocent people is shed, the more sins will add to the burden of those leaders who are provoking these groups against one another. You, the gentlemen ulema and prominent figures, should advise the leaders of these groups and tell them: Israel is the enemy of us all, and they should use their weapons against Israel and not against each other.

His eminence added: The Muslims, wherever they are, must attach importance to the problem of Lebanon. Now the East and the West are interested in Lebanon, and although the United States has suffered some losses in Lebanon and left countless casualties, it is not giving it up, because it knows that by losing Lebanon, Israel will be defeated too.

His eminence went on: If the Palestinian leaders are telling the truth that they are genuinely thinking of the Palestinians, why are they encouraging the Palestinians to wage internal clashes, knowing well that these clashes will serve the interests of Israel? Will they serve the interests of the Palestinians through fratricide or by daily visiting the hireling and affiliated leaders of some superficially Islamic countries to take orders for implementing their sinister policies? Will such deeds return the trampled rights of the Palestinians?

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri pointed out: You are witnessing now that the entire world is terrified of Islam's expansion or, as they prefer to call it, of Islamic fundamentalism. They refer to this as an important issue. Now, with these gains we should not break this revolution with our own hands and destroy the change it has brought. More than two thirds of Lebanon's population is Muslim; why should it be ruled by the Christians and Maronites? Why should Israel interfere in their affairs? We are about 1 billion Muslims in the world and must stand against 3 million Israelis. We have a bigger population and countless resources and possibilities. However, I must say with regret that any suffering inflicted on the Muslims comes from the corrupt and hireling leaders and the pseudo-ulema who have lost their Islamic identity.

His eminence added: It is a duty of the ulema and of prominent figures to reach an understanding among themselves and think of Islam and the oppressed and the innocent. You, gentlemen, convey my greetings to the ulema and innocent people of Lebanon, particularly to the inhabitants of the south and those living in the Palestinian camps, and please ask them to mobilise their forces against the common enemy and remain patient and tolerant and keep up their resistance. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, his eminence expressed the hope that the authorities of the IRI will pay greater attention to Lebanon, and said prayers for the victory of the combatants of Islam on the fronts of Iran, Lebanon, and Afghanistan and for the health and long life of the imam of the nation.

Afghan 'Clashes' Said Due to 'Alien Forces'

LD251353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] In the course of an interview concerning the Kabul regime's declaration of a cease-fire and the establishment of a national reconciliation government, and following that regime's request for reactions to this, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday:

The Islamic Republic of Iran's position regarding the question of Afghanistan is clear and explicit. Islamic Iran consistently supports the pride, independence, national sovereignty, peace, and tranquility of Islamic Afghanistan. However, the basic reason for the clashes in Afghanistan is the presence of alien forces and the establishment of a puppet regime which is not acceptable to the people of that country.

He added: We believe that if the Soviet forces withdraw from that country soon and without any preconditions, and if Afghan refugees can then return to their homelands with security, dignity, and respect then the necessary conditions for establishing the future of Islamic Afghanistan will be determined by the Muslim people of that country without any foreign interference. Then the Islamic Republic of Iran will support the sovereign rule of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and that country's independence and territorial integrity.

In connection with the Kabul regime's claim that some of its neighbors, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have prevented Afghan refugees from returning to their homeland, the spokesman stated:

The reason why Afghanistan's Muslim people emigrated to Iran and to other countries is because they oppose the interference of Soviet forces and the restrictions arising from the rule of the present regime over that country. And, in accordance with its Islamic and humanitarian commitments, the Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted and hosted its Muslim guests but has neither encouraged nor prevented the latter from migrating or residing in Iran. He added: Without obtaining permission from the puppet Kabul regime Afghan refugees have entered Iran, and they can return to their homeland at whatever time they deem appropriate and whenever they wish to. If the refugees themselves consider that the conditions for returning to their country are suitable, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not only not create any difficulties for them but, rather, will provide the necessary facilities for the dignified return of these refugees.

The spokesman continued: It appears that now that Kabul's projects have met with a lack of enthusiasm and with the decisive opposition of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, that regime is trying to blame others for the defeat of its projects by accusing its neighbors.

Musavi Warns Superpowers Against Interference

LD251729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Excerpt][Oassage omitted] At the end of today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi replied to our reporter's questions in connection with the latest admissions of U.S. and British officials on their increasing military presence in the Persian Gulf region.

[Begin recording][Reporter] Mr Musavi, some countries, such as the United States and Britain, are justifying their military presence in the region while expressing anxiety about the intensification of the war and the latest victories of the combatants of Islam. Could you please explain to us the stance adopted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this issue?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In between the layers of opinions being expressed in the region

in connection with the victories of the Islamic forces, and the advance of our combatants on the fronts, there exist extensive opinions at world level. The most important of these point to the certain fall of Saddam [Husayn]. It is natural for Saddam's bosses to be worried and to make certain remarks in this connection. These opinions and remarks are generally covered by a gloss aimed at making an impact on world public opinion, and at hiding certain truths. For instance, it has been said that it is in the interest of the world and of peace in the region if this war ends without either side being the loser or the winner — that is, that it should not end with one side being victorious over the other. This is not what was being said when Saddam came and took Khuzestan [as heard] and other parts of our country. At that time, no one said that this war should end with no winners on either side or that the aggressor should be condemned. That is because, as the United States declared at that time — and Carter referred to it and said some encouraging things about this attack — it was hoped that if possible, the Islamic Republic could be got rid of through this attack.

Whenever our forces are about to gain victory and Saddam's regime is about to fall and is in danger, we see this slogan being issued. This slogan has an apparently patriotic dimension to it but in reality it is explicit backing for Saddam's regime. We condemn this. In practice, the big powers — especially the United States — cannot conspire in the region, and it was conspiring at the time of our nation's victory on 11 February 1979. They did not want our nation to be victorious. But, contrary to the wishes of the United States, this victory was achieved.

Today, too, contrary to the wishes of the great powers, our nation will gain the victory because justice is on our side and we believe that this victory is in the interest of the region and in the interest of peace and security of the region.

When Reagan says: Our security in the Persian Gulf will be endangered and we want to preserve security there. Or: We want to preserve security of the Straits of Hormuz, this is rubbish and nonsense because it is the nations and governments of a region that preserve the security of that region, and not a superpower. The superpowers are not able to do this. It is the regional nations which, through their own resolve and their self-preservation, can maintain regional security. And the governments of the region too, through friendship with each other and through the establishment of profound and Islamic bonds, can maintain the security of this region without the interference of the superpowers. And it has been so up to now. We ourselves are a power in the region and have, up to now, preserved the security of the Strait of Hormuz, of the Persian Gulf, and it shall continue to be so in the future.

Of course, if one day the security of the Persian Gulf were to be disrupted to our detriment, no one here will have security because our nation and all the Muslim nations that support the Islamic Revolution in this region, will not sit idly by. This is a warning to the superpowers. But, just as they have had to repeatedly admit to the validity of the issue, they must recognize officially and on a world level the rightfulness of the Islamic Revolution and its power. And they must make their calculations and draw up their plans accordingly so that they may not get entangled in mistakes which may in turn lead to their annihilation. [end recording]

Velayati on 'Spread of Tension'

LD251811 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati enunciated Iran's stance on latest regional developments to heads of the foreign diplomatic corps here Sunday and warned that countries outside the region, particularly the superpowers, should not interfere in regional disputes.

It is beyond doubt, Dr Velayati said that the security of the Persian Gulf is of paramount importance to the world, and the interference and intervention of states outside the region, particularly the superpowers, shall only lead to the intensification and spread of tension.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the foreign minister said, will confront with full force any move by the superpowers to make the region prey to their interests and greed.

On the imposed war, Velayati said the aggression of the Iraqi regime is now nearing the point of total collapse, despite the fact it has been provided [with] all manner of military weaponry and assistance by the superpowers its demoralized troops are fed up with fighting for the survival of Saddam Husayn in defence of his ill-fated aggression against Iran.

The Iranian nation is determined to eliminate the root causes of aggression and restore peace, security, and stability to the region. Iraq's barbaric attacks on civilian areas in Iran will not deter the Iranian nation in its sacred fight in self-defence to do away with Iraqi aggression, the foreign minister said.

Iraq's policy of expanding the war to other parts of the region has gained momentum in recent months, and its repeated use of internationally-banned chemical weapons and indiscriminate air and missile attacks on Iran's defenseless civilian population makes a mockery of international law and threatens to heighten the conflict to global crisis, the foreign minister said.

The foundation of regional peace and security can only be built upon the debris of Saddam Husayn's regime, and on the emergence of a new and independent Iraq wishing to have cordial relations with all countries of the region.

Iranian troops around Basra are not out to occupy Iraqi territory but for laying the foundation for regional peace, Dr Velayati said.

Foreign Minister Velayati said only the Iraqi people and their true and legitimate representatives could decide how they would conduct bilateral relations with other countries, whether they would fulfill commitments made by Saddam, and how it would use the resources of the country.

Velayati said that military operations would continue till the aggressive regime of Iraq is eliminated. Political efforts, he said, would also be pursued providing they, too, contribute to achieving this objective.

Countries Warned To Stop Aid to Iraq

LD252042 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA — Warning reactionary countries of the region to stop aiding Saddam Husayn, spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Hashemi, termed the conflict between Iraq and Iran as "a war between Islamic culture and tyranny." Speaking at a press conference Sunday the SAIRI spokesman noted the U.S. support for the Iraqi regime in the imposed-war as a pointer to this fact.

Referring to the Iraqi president's propaganda attempts to portray the war as safeguarding Arab nationalism, Hashemi said that falseness of Saddam Husayn's hollow claim is his savage bombardments of Iran's Arab-populated region. The Baghdad government has even rendered simple tribesmen homeless, who have been inhabiting that country for thousands of years, he added.

On Iraqi's mojahedin's role in the victorious Karbala'-5 operations Hoj. Hashemi revealed that the Badr-9 Brigade, composed of around 3,000 Iraqi mojahedin groups are also waging guerrilla fights inside Iraq against the Iraqi regime.

The SAIRI spokesman further said that only the Iraqi nation will determine its future form of government. Without doubt, he added, the Iraqi people will never accept any form of government except an Islamic one, since they (Iraqi people) have dedicated many martyrs.

On SAIRI's stance towards the OIC conference at Kuwait the spokesman said that the conference has nothing to do with Islam. In fact it is planning to suppress the growing Islamic movements under the guise of Islam, he remarked, adding that the real nature of the host country (Kuwait) is quite familiar to the Muslims.

Drawing attention to U.S. President's recent statements and the dispatch of warships to the Persian Gulf waters for supporting Kuwait, Hashemi said that such measures are a clear proof that the OIC conference is being held under U.S. umbrella.

On behalf of the Iraqi people SAIRI condemns the presence of the Iraqi regime at the conference, he said.

Majlis Speaker Discusses Karbala' Operations

PM271531 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Jan 87 pp 18-17

[Untitled Report on 16 January "Friday Prayers" at Tehran University by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Excerpts] Coinciding with the recent victories of the Islamic warriors in the Karbala' 5 and 6 Operations and the departure of the second caravan of Mohammad's — peace be unto him — army to the imposed war's battlefields, millions of our country's revolutionary citizens held Friday prayers throughout the nation. [passage omitted]

In Tehran's Friday prayers, during the second sermon, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, discussed in detail the recent operations carried out by the Islamic warriors. He talked about this under two headings: One, the war on the battlefields; and the other, the war of the cities.

According to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani the war continues unabated in the Karbala' 5 and 6 operational areas within 10 to 12 km. But he stressed that this war is not to capture Basra but is rather aimed at the complete destruction of the Iraqi war machine and is a prelude to a fateful move by the warriors of Islam.

Tehran's provisional Friday imam said: Since 2 days ago the fighting in the Karbala' 5 area has reached the palm groves around Basra. This morning 150 Iraqi prisoners who had been hiding among the trees were arrested by the Islamic warriors.

He talked about Saddam's renewed attacks against our country's civilian areas and said this exposed the true and vile nature of Saddam. He severely criticized the Soviet Union for arming Iraq. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then talked about the present conditions on the war fronts and said: Today the situation is a special one. In the history of the war it can be considered a climax and a very sensitive situation which could be a turning point in the history of the war.

He added: We had three operations. They were Karbala' 4, 5, and 6, and all of them are connected to one another in some way. On the surface, Karbala' 6 is looking ahead of Baghdad and is nearly in the center of Iraq. Karbala' 5 is looking at Basra and is aiming south. Karbala' 4, the way it happened, was a prelude to the things that are happening today.

Of course, there are events that are clear on the surface. But the things that are discussed in the war rooms among military leaders and then discussed and decided on further by their political superiors hold some truths that cannot be revealed. Our people do not expect all the things that happen in the war rooms to be discussed behind a microphone. These all have a special time and place, and the time will come one day for the people to find out about these things.

Even the warriors who are fighting on the warfronts do not expect to know about all the facets of the war and what goes on in the war rooms. Even they do not consider it proper to have everything revealed. And they do not consider it proper to know everything. But there are still many things that one can talk about.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council continued: The way the three Karbala' operations were carried out together and the way they were planned could be considered to have been accomplished with divine help. Or else we can think of it as correct planning which has totally confused the enemy.

What happened during Karbala' 5 was that the enemy's extraordinary defenses at Shalamcheh were broken. Yet it needed something like Karbala' 4 to precede it in order to fool the evil eyes of the internal and external spies and satellites. So much so, that when Karbala' 5 started, our enemies were so badly

fooled that they thought nothing was going to happen for another few months. According to information that we have received, the Ba'th Party had become really greedy and wanted to start some sort of action in the Al-Faw area or elsewhere. Yet when the shouts of your children suddenly woke up the Iraqi soldiers behind the iron defenses of Shalamcheh they suddenly came to their senses and felt the spark of this operation.

Today you must accept the fact that to fool all these spies is the most difficult part of an operation. It is very hard to place the enemy in such a position that he cannot define the precise moment of the operation or attack.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then talked about the spy satellites which circle the earth several times a day, the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], Marxists, royalists, nationalists, several of the secret elements of the Ba'thist enemy, and their various methods. He said: To keep secret a huge movement involving tens of thousands of men with arms and equipment, which they hope to deploy at one moment in one area, is very difficult indeed.

It needs tanks, cars, food, and equipment. The enemy's spies control all the roads and passages. Even in towns the evil eyes of the hypocrites and their kind control all the real elements of the war, the comings and goings of officials, their programs and the way they live, the doctors, hospitals, trucks, and gas stations. They keep an eye on every place where they think they may be able to gain some information. So, divine help must have come to the warriors' aid; indeed, it did, and things happened the way they did. To pass through a place like Shalamcheh when the enemy is awake is something that does not come to the mind of any military person. This means that no military person is prepared to accept this risk, if it is within a military framework at all.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: After the liberation of Khorramshahr we moved toward Basra, and some of our forces even went through this same fishing channel. The enemy then discovered one of our operational aims. He created a situation east of Basra that is unprecedented in the world. He created the world's strongest defense line. There is no such defense line in the Soviet Union, Vietnam, or Israel, or in any other country.

He then gave details of this defense line. He said: They flooded a desert area about 10 to 12 km wide. Before they flooded this area, they laid mines across it. Then they separated it into segments with barbed wire, and in the middle they created several fortresses. They built roads through it and huge bunkers, and they made tunnels and put men inside them to control the area at all times. They used night sights to control the area for several kilometers.

Once we cross this water and reach Iraqi territory, there are defense lines not seen even in the movies. They are around 6 meters high. There are channels that go through some parts of the dam, and there are well-equipped rooms behind it and stairs in front. These are defended by various machine guns. The Iraqis thought that they could use these machine guns because they thought that our children were unfamiliar with them. Usually, when our children enter their bunkers, they take away the weapons and use them against the enemy himself. Even now they are taking tanks from the enemy and using them against him. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Trained militarymen who have been through the school of war cannot accept that such a thing is possible. They do not accept the risk of having their forces cross the water and then wait on the other side for support to come from behind. But these people went and broke that line, took the weapons on the line, took the machines and bulldozers from the other side, and went to work. They wanted to accomplish their own task and also to open the road so that the support team could arrive from the rear.

From that day until now, the fiercest battle has been going on in this area.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then talked about the huge investment made by Iraq in this region and said: The area of Basra is a very very important part of Iraq and is its economic lifeline. The Arab reactionaries' security lies in Basra. If one day Basra becomes like our Abadan — which is not too far away for Iraq — life will become much much harder.

The Islamic Republic showed that it could live very well without Abadan and manage well enough. Even so, Abadan had a much lesser role for Iran than Basra has for Iraq. Although we had a 600,000-barrel oil refinery there, the issue of Basra is far more important. So Iraq must stand firm in Basra and spend all it has there to keep it as it is.

There are more than 1 million people living in Basra: They are diminishing in number, but if they become war refugees they will become a burden for Iraq which will be very hard to bear. There are still some contractors working in Basra and Hawr al-Basra, and this area is very important for Iraq. Hawr al-Basra joins the main Basra highway in the west, and this will cause additional problems for them. So Iraq has to stand firm in that area. The main bulk of the Iraqi troops has gradually been sent to this region since the moment we crossed and from the morning after. What is now occurring in that area is causing fear throughout the world.

He added: The war is now continuing some 12 km from Basra. What you saw on last night's television film are the villages around Basra, which are in the palm groves. One of our problems is how to capture and bring in the Iraqi officers and soldiers holed up in houses and alleys in those palm groves. Our boys are inviting the Iraqi soldiers to surrender, using megaphones in the streets of those villages. ust this morning, they reached a safe area in the groves and arrested 150 Iraqi soldiers, including some high-ranking officers. The place, some 12 km from Basra, where the war is at its height, has become an inferno for Iraqi troops. Iraq is putting in its best troops there, but they can only last, for example, 1 day or 10 days; Iraqi brigades are being destroyed one after another. Iraq knows that its lifeline is there. We also know that the fate of the war must be decided in that area.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: The real war is there. One of the important areas that is

in our hands right now is Bawarin island. [passage omitted]

At present our troops are carrying out mopping up operations there and they are waiting for our troops to reach them from behind [sentence as published]. The Iraqis have lost contact with the mainland and their bridges have been cut. Their helicopters have no power to land, and if Iraqi boats were to enter the area at night they would suffer a lot of casualties. So Iraq sees the future of this island in terms of Basra's future and the future of the entire area.

The fishing channel, a major portion of which is now in our hands, is something that they created for so-called fish farming. This was one of the major defense lines that the Soviets created for Iraq. This channel is about 1 km wide and around 25-30 km long, and it is being primarily used at present for defense purposes. It is located some 12-14 km northwest of Shatt al Arab. After Shatt al Arab, the enemy is dependent on this fishing channel. But the channel has lost its defensive purpose and is now a weapon in our hands.

The northwestern part of this channel is in our hands, and we have a firm foothold in its southwestern area. From here to the port of Basra, where Iraqi ships are under siege — and there are are still some 70 ships there — is 12-14 km. From there mortars, Katyushas, and various other types of heavy weapons can hit Basra if they want. Iraqi forces are being depleted in that area; every day they lose a division and they will no longer be able to function. Restoring this manpower will be very difficult for the Ba'thist regime, and it is being forced to bring troops from elsewhere. This is something that the Iraqis cannot sustain in the long-term. [passage omitted]

A big problem that has been created for the Iraqis is that before this attack they had to defend an area that was 5-6 km wide. Now this line has been stretched to 30 or 40 km. This means that they did not have a front from Bawarin to Umm al-Rasas but now Iraq is forced to carry out heavy engineering duties [sentence as published]. Iraq has lost some 25,000 men in Karbala' 5 and 30,000 men in Karbala' 4 and 6, and while a new front has been opened in the north by Army ground forces, it still has to create a defense line — which is very difficult for it. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then talked about the propaganda of the world aggressors about Saddam's Al-Faw defeat: There was no cloud during this operation, and the ground was very dry. Iraq could bring in tanks through this area at any time. This will become clear one day, and the world aggressors will have to abandon hope in the Iraqi Army. They must not think that the Iraqi Army is one that can withstand the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

He said: Basra is not our real aim. Our real aim is something else. Our present aim is to destroy the Iraqi war machine. Our aim is to open the way for the people of Iraq and our warriors to achieve decisive progress in the future. Of course, entering Basra is not an issue for us. We have to have our final word with Iraq outside Basra. So our aim is clear, and the world aggressors' propaganda will not change anything. [passage omitted]

The provisional Tehran Friday imam then talked about relations between the Soviet Union and Iraq. He said: Iraq has been tricked by the Soviets on this issue, but I do not know what is going on behind the scenes. Out of ignorance, the Soviet UN ambassador has said they are giving arms to Iraq because Iraq is willing to accept peace, to establish a balance. We do not know how much truth there is in what they say. But in any case we can see that some of the things they say are true, because we are being attacked by Soviet weapons in many areas. The enemy's weapons are either French or else, for the most part, Soviet-made.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then commented on the statement by the Soviet foreign minister after the Karbala' 5 operations. He had apologized and had denied the ambassador's statement, saying that the Western media had twisted his words. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Of course we pay more attention to the words of a minister than to those of an ambassador. We accept this and we expect the Soviets to be sensible, but you can see what is happening today when the Soviets claim to be peace-loving.

When they hit our cities with their missiles — Iraq is able to fire 10 or 15 of these in a day — we know who gives them these missiles. We know that the Soviets make these missiles. We know that the MiG-25's which fly at high altitude and drop their bombs are part of the Soviets' strategic [as published] weapons; and if they had not given their permission, the planes would not have come.

At the same time we accept the Soviet foreign minister's words and we expect them to repent, to learn a lesson, and to see that these kinds of actions are counterproductive.

The issue we are facing now is that the young men in the bombed cities are applying a lot of pressure to go to the war fronts. At present, the pressure to go to the war fronts is greater in the bombed cities than in other, safer cities.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council discussed the results of the war of the cities. He said: With these attacks, our motivation to fight increases. If there were any among our people who thought that peace could solve their problems, they no longer think that way. Because as soon as Saddam got hold of some missiles, he started the war on the cities again. This means that, if there were peace today, when Saddam regained control tomorrow, the same war would start again. [passage omitted]

He added: The issue now is that Iraq is stuck in a quagmire, and we have to hit Iraq so hard that we can open the way completely for our future, decisive plans. This can only be done by continuing the operations, with the help of the warriors.

Those brothers who wanted to go to the war fronts now face no obstacles. You must be ready to go to war at full strength and the news shows that this is what is happening. In terms of supplies for the fronts — for anyone supplying anything — now is the time to get supplies to the fronts to keep them strong. [passage omitted]

Further Communiques Update Combat Operations

No 2,726

LD241746 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 24, IRNA — Seven Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire over Ilam and Karbala'-5 operational region Saturday, said military Communique Number 2,726 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here on the same day.

According to the communique an Iraqi Sukhoi-22 plane was downed at 8:27 GMT in the southern fronts, three jets over Ilam at 11:48, 11:52, 12:06 GMT and three others over Karbala'-5 operational region at 11, 11:02, 11:08 GMT.

The Iranian Ground Forces troops captured two strategic heights in Karbala'-6 region in five hours of fighting, in an attack launched early Friday in a bid to push out the enemy troops, said the communique. The enemy's frontline units were smashed during the operations with the remaining Iraqi troops coming under Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi attempts to infiltrate Iranian positions west of Nahr-e Jasim were totally thwarted and movements of the enemy's infantry and armoured units came under heavy Iranian artillery fire, as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses.

Heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants on remnants of Iraq's Armoured Division Three and Mechanized Division Five inflicted substantial casualties and losses on the enemy. Iraqi tank and armoured units in Basra and Nahr-e Anbar also suffered casualties and losses when they were targeted by Iranian artillery fire, said the communique.

Vital Iraqi targets and economic-military centers in the cities of Sulaymaniyah, Arbat, Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, Khurmal, Shaneh Dari, Chuwartah, and Barzinjah were shelled and sustained heavy damage Friday, the communique said.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed five gun emplacements, a 106 mm gun mounted on a jeep and a truck of the Iraqi forces Friday killing or wounding 10 enemy soldiers, said the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said the Iranian Navy intercepted three cargo ships in the Hormuz Strait Friday but allowed them to continue voyage when no suspicious cargo was found on board. Iraq's Al-'Amyah platform came under continued Iranian coastal artillery fire.

The cities of Baneh and Marivan, Kordestan Province were hit by Iraqi artillery fire Friday, said the communique. Intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed Esfahan, Tabriz, Dezful, and Ilam Saturday martyring and wounding scores of civilians.

No 2,727

LD251556 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA — Four Iranian mid-range surface-to-surface missiles hit Iraqi military-economic centers in Basra and Khanaqin at 1:00, 1:05, 7:00 hours GMT Sunday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,727 released here Sunday said that vital Iraqi targets and eco-military sites in the cities of Panjwin, Sulaymaniyah, Arbat, Sayyid-Sadiq, Halabjah, Khurmal, Shaneh Dari and Barzinjah came under Iranian long-range artillery fire Sunday sustaining considerable damage.

In Karbala'-6 operational region, the communique said, Iranian combatants consolidated their new positions and defense lines, and subjected Iraqi troops to their heavy artillery fire disarraying the enemy forces and inflicting heavy casualties on them.

During the exchange of artillery fire, which was more intense in Karbala'-5 region Iraqi movements were halted and enemy reinforcements were prevented from joining bewildered Iraqi troops in the region.

According to the communique Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed at least five Iraqi group bunkers, a boat, and several heavy vehicles Sunday killing or wounding a considerable number of enemy soldiers.

Intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed the cities of Qom and Esfahan Sunday martyring and wounding scores of civilians, said the communique.

No 2,728

LD261608 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 26, IRNA — Two mid-range surface-to-surface Iranian missiles hit two economic and military centers of the southern Iraqi city of Basra at 11:30 GMT Sunday and at 12:30 GMT Monday, inflicting substantial damage on them, said a military communique here Monday.

Communique Number 2,728 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian long range artillery fire heavily shelled eco-military targets in Iraqi cities Monday inflicting heavy troop casualties and losses on the enemy.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavily in the Karbala'-6 operational theater in Sumar, Naft-e Shahr, and Qasr-e Shirin killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying three enemy tanks, several heavy vehicles, and five munitions depots.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered Iraqi positions in the northwestern and southern fronts, dealing effective blows on enemy troops Sunday.

Iraqi troops suffered substantial casualties and losses in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday as their positions were

shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

No 2,729
LD271644 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 26, IRNA — Two mid-range surface-to-surface Iranian missiles hit economic-military targets in the southern Iraqi city of Basra at 19:30 and 20:30 GMT Monday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy, said a military communique here Tuesday.

In its 2729th communique, the Joint Staff command of Iran's Armed Forces said that substantial damage was inflicted on eco-military centers of the Iraqi cities of Sulaymaniyah, Khurmal, Churwartah, Badrah, Douleh-Sour [place name as received] Mandali, Khanaqin, Banmil, Zurbatiyah, and Naft Khaneh by Iranian long range artillery fire on Monday.

Iranian jet fighters heavily pounded Iraqi positions and concentration centers of enemy armoured and motorized units in the Karbala'-5 operational theater Monday. The fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

Iraqi's Al-Bakr oil platform in the Persian Gulf and enemy watch towers east of Basra sustained considerable damage by Iranian artillery fire at 05:04 GMT Monday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Naft-e Shahr and the Karbala'-6 operational theater in Sumar region as a result of which a considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and six enemy tanks, three munitions dumps, and several trucks destroyed.

Fighting in the Karbala'-5 operational theater continued on Monday with Iranian Muslim combatants gaining more victories and Iraqi troops suffering heavy casualties and losses.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in part of the southern and western fronts Monday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying five gun emplacements, one observation post, and several vehicles of theirs.

Heavy artillery duels between Muslim forces of Iran and Iraqi troops were reported in Pich-e Angizeh, Sharhani, Kushk, Talaiyeh, 'Eyn Khosh, and Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts Monday, the communique concluded.

Combat Operations, Karbala' 5, 6 Continue

Positions Gained Along Dual Canal
LD260855 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 26, IRNA — In the continuation of their victorious Karbala'-5 operations, Muslim forces gained new positions in west of Fish Lake, along the Dual Canal, Sunday night. The Iraqi enemy was preparing to launch counterattacks in this area but sustained heavy losses in the Sunday night blitz of Muslim combatants.

The Dual Canal, also known as feeding canal, is 60 meters wide and water from the Shatt al-'Arab empties into lakes west of Shalamcheh and the Fish Lake. The Dual Canal had served as an Iraqi barricade in this region.

The Iranian forces also destroyed a connecting bridge over the canal. Water entering the Fish Lake and lakes in west Shalamcheh is fully controled by Muslim forces of Iran.

Positions Termed 'New Offensive'
LD270749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0735 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Please pay attention to the latest report we have received from the Karbala'-5 operational theater. According to a report released by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Islamic combatants launched a new offensive last night along the Dual Canal deep inside Iraq. The new offensive was launched in the area between west of the Jasim River and the Dual Canal. Having smashed the enemy's defense fortifications in the area, our fighters inflicted heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi forces. Right now, our forces are engaged in devastating the forces and equipment of several Iraqi brigades, which are encircled.

2 Iraqi Battalions 'Smashed'
LD270812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0748 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We just received the following news report. The Islamic forces, following their offensive last night, have encircled the enemy forces in the area between Jasim River and south of Fish Lake and north of Shatt al-Arab. So far, our forces have inflicted considerable losses on four enemy brigades. Two battalions, part of the 81st Infantry Brigade, have already been smashed, with their troops having been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. Moreover, a great many enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and vehicles have also been set ablaze and destroyed by our troops.

Iraqi Brigade Command Captured
LD270816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0759 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We just received this news report: On the basis of a report received from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Islamic combatants, having advanced deep inside enemy positions, succeeded in laying seige to the command headquarters of Iraqi's 45th Brigade. Following some fierce fighting, which resulted in the deaths of dozens of senior Iraqi officers and NCO's; our forces captured the command headquarters.

In the course of this engagement, in addition to heavy casualties suffered by the enemy in loosing officers and NCO's, a considerable amount of the enemy equipment was set ablaze and destroyed.

2 KMS Shalamcheh-Basra Road Seized
LD270821 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 27, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran seized two more kilometers of Shalamcheh-Basra road, west of Jasim River, killing and injuring tens of Iraqi forces.

During the Monday night operation, the Muslim combatants destroyed several Iraqi brigades, killing or injuring a large number of Iraqi troops.

Missiles Hit Basra Installations
LD270836 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran fired two medium range surface-to-surface missiles at military and economic installations of Basra at 23:00 and 24:00 hours local time (19:30 and 20:30 hours GMT) Monday. Considerable damage was reportedly inflicted on enemy installations.

Iraqi Erecting of Barriers Disrupted
LD270917 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0902 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to reports from correspondents dispatched to the Karbala'-5 operational theater, following the recent attacks by the forces of Islam in that sector yesterday, the enemy transferred engineering equipment to erect fortifications and defensive barriers a few kilometers from Basra, which were totally destroyed by the heavy fire of the combatants of Islam in operations in which hundreds of enemy military engineering personnel were killed or wounded. Their activities were completely disrupted.

Iraqi Tank Battalion Destroyed
LD270843 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol Anbiya' Hqs. Jan 27, IRNA — An Iraqi tank battalion was destroyed by the Muslim forces of Iran, in Karbala'-5 operational region Monday night, said a Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters statement Tuesday. According to the statement not only was the tank battalion of Brigade 42 of the Tenth Armoured Division of Iraq destroyed, but a large number of Iraqi forces were killed or taken captive too.

Fish Lake, Shatt al 'Arab Area Viewed
LD270936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0917 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Islam, please pay attention to the latest report from the Karbala'-5 operational theater.

According to reports from the Karbala'-5 sector and correspondents' reports, the area between the Fish Lake and Shatt al-'Arab has been turned into a graveyard for enemy advance equipment, which has been set alight by the combatants of Islam. The smoke from burning enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and military vehicles which were destroyed today can be clearly seen.

According to Iraqi POW's, a large number of units freshly dispatched to the sector are destroyed every day. Sub-Lieutenant 'Abd al-Kazim, an officer of the 12th Battalion of the 120th Infantry Brigade of the 30th Division, who was captured by our forces, said that, due to heavy fire on Shatt al-'Arab bridges, which the newly arrived Iraqi troops are forced to use, passage over these bridges has become a nightmare for the Iraqi forces, they call them the bridges of death.

Tehran, Iraq Cease Bombing Cities
LD271055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit Report, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters has announced that, since the Iraqi regime has ceased its attacks on Iran's residential areas, in return, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also stopped shelling economic and military installations in Iraqi cities from this morning. He said: Should the Iraqi regime resume its atrocities, the combatants of Islam will retaliate with the utmost intensity and the Iraqi regime will be responsible for any consequences.

Iraqis Bomb Residential Areas
LD271717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, violating aircraft of the Zionist Iraqi regime this afternoon bombed residential areas of Ilam, Qom, Khomeyn, and Esfahan, as a result of which a number of our compatriots were martyred or wounded.

'Preventive Attacks' To Be Resumed
LD271811 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants will strongly resume their preventive attacks on Iraq's industrial-military targets in retaliation for the Iraqi regime's resumption of bombing on Iranian residential areas.

Addressing international forums, spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Tuesday that Baghdad

will be solely responsible for the dire consequences of Iranian reprisal attacks.

Following a 24-hour lull in Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas the Islamic Republic had earlier ended its fire on military-economic centers in Iraq to prove that Iran fully opposes any violation of international laws, said the spokesman.

The spokesman said, however the Iraqi regime, true to its barbaric nature, resumed attacks on Iranian civilian sites Tuesday afternoon, apparently to cover up its repeated defeats at the war fronts and also to boost its troops' sagging morale.

The inability of the Iraqi Air Force to carry out operations in the war fronts was termed by the spokesman as another cause for resumption of Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities.

The Baghdad regime has time and again proved that in order to achieve its vicious goals, it is ready to commit any crime ranging from bombing residential areas and martyring innocent students to deployment of chemical weapons.

Inflicting of Casualties Continues

LD281104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Khatem ol-Anbiya' base, the headquarters for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that last night and this morning, continuing the Karbala'-5 offensive, the fighters of Islam clashed with the Zionist enemy inflicting heavy losses upon them, killing or wounding 1,500 and capturing 30. Among the dead are a number of officers and NCO's and one battalion commander.

According to the same report, last night one enemy tank with its crew surrendered to the forces of Islam.

Iraq Bombs More Residential Areas

LD281107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, aircraft of the Zionist Iraqi regime today bombed the residential areas of Hamadan, Zanjan, Khorramabad, Pol-e Dokhtar, and Khomeyn, as a result of which a number of our compatriots were killed or wounded.

65th Iraqi Aircraft Downed

LD281108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] According to a report of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, another intruding Iraqi plane, which intended to attack positions of the forces of Islam, was hit and downed in the Karbala'-5 operational theater, thanks to the ever-vigilant air defense units of the combatants of Islam, bringing to 65 the total number of the enemy planes downed in this region since the start of the Karbala'-5 operations.

Targets in Iraqi Cities Shelled

LD281120 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 28, IRNA — The Islamic combatant of Iran's artillery fire heavily pounded economic-military sites in Iraqi cities of Basra, Al-'Amarah, Do-Sheikh, Zurbatiyah, Badrah, Mandali', Naft-Khaneh, Khanaqin, Khurmal, Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, Arabat, Shandrukh, Sulaymaniyah, Chuwartah, Sitak, Diwanat, Zubayr, and Shu'aybah Tuesday night, inflicting heavy losses and damage. The shelling was in retaliation for recent Iraqi attacks on civilian areas in the Islamic Republic.

Ever since Iran launched its victorious Karabala'-5 operation in the southern front on Jan 9, which was followed by Karbala'-6 in the western front on Jan 13, the Iraqi regime has desperatedly resorted to military attacks on civilian areas inflicting high civilian casualties.

'Fierce' Fighting in Karbala '6

LD270857 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan 27, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran opened artillery fire on Iraqi positions and fortifications in Karbala'-6 operational region, central fronts, Monday.

Five Iraqi tanks, two personnel carriers, eight vehicles, and ten group bunkers of the Iraqi enemy were destroyed and a large number of its troops were killed or injured.

Fierce fighting continued in Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Naft-e Shah, Mehran, Kandanqoli, and Dehloran fronts.

Meanwhile, Muslim forces opened fire on two columns of enemy vehicles, halting their movement.